

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia [Ms. MCKINNEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. MCKINNEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

□ 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HUTCHINSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. BILBRAY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BILBRAY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF EMANCIPATION OF AFRICANS HELD IN SLAVERY IN THE DANISH WEST INDIES—THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands [Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, this evening I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues and fellow Americans that July 3, 1998 will be the 150th anniversary of the emancipation of Africans held in slavery in the Danish West Indies, now the United States Virgin Islands, the district which I represent in the 105th Congress.

Mr. Chairman, there are few moments in human history as dramatic and inspiring as those that took place in the town of Frederiksted in St. Croix on the 2d and 3d of July, 1848. The story is one of courage and determination on the part of a people to live free and risk death in the process.

Historians tell us that at the sound of the conchshell, the unfree from

across St. Croix converged on the fort under the leadership of Moses Gottlieb, who was called General Buddhoe. Their threat was to burn the island unless immediate freedom was obtained.

In response to reports of the uprising, Danish Governor Peter Von Scholten rushed from the town of Christiansted to confront the angry men and women who had assembled and who had established a 4 p.m. deadline for his declaration of emancipation.

Surrounded and outnumbered during his ride down King Street on his way to Fort Frederick, and encouraged by his mulatto mistress, Anna Haggaard, the Governor issued his famous proclamation: "All unfree in the Danish West Indies are from this day free." He later repeated his statement from the ramparts of Fort Christiansvern.

Although the revolt ended with little loss of property or life due mostly to the efforts of General Buddhoe, its key players paid a high price. General Buddhoe himself was arrested and sent away on a Danish man-o-war never to be heard from again. Governor Von Scholten returned to Denmark where he was tried and found guilty of exceeding his authority and dereliction of duty.

Mr. Speaker, the events of July 3d, 1848 are considered the second act of self-determination by Virgin Islanders, the first being the uprising in St. John in 1733, which brought that island under African rule for 6 months.

So July 3d of each year is designated Emancipation Day, and commemorates this most important and significant event in our history.

Mr. Speaker, it is also a significant event in the history of our great Nation, because it was the first such proclamation on what would later become American soil, coming 15 years before President Abraham Lincoln would issue his famous Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves in the Confederate States during the Civil War.

There is irony as well as fate in the fact that Emancipation Day precedes the 4th of July, the day when America celebrates its independence. These twin days of celebration bind Virgin Islanders and all Americans to an eternal commitment to human freedom.

We of this generation are heirs to Valley Forge and Frederiksted and the great tradition of sacrifice and suffering in the cause of freedom. Future generations must bless and cherish the memory of General George Washington and General Buddhoe and keep the fires of freedom burning.

To recognize this great event, the Governor of the Virgin Islands has issued a proclamation calling for a month-long celebration beginning June 1, 1998 to July 5, 1998, culminating in a week-long observance from June 29, 1998 to July 5, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of this I will shortly introduce a resolution in the House and seek the support of my colleagues in recognizing the 150th anniversary of the emancipation of my

ancestors. I invite all Americans to join us in observance of this proud moment in American and Virgin Island history.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. RUSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RUSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. SNYDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, once again, my thanks to the staff here who are working late, as several of us have an opportunity to discuss these important issues.

Mr. Chairman, it is my opinion and the opinion of a great many Americans that while we live in the greatest democracy in the history of the world, our democracy and the way we currently conduct our business has some major problems. Specifically, how do we do our campaigns? How do we elect our officials to come to Washington and do the people's business?

Now, what is the specific problem? I will show my colleagues what the specific problem is. This is going to be a difficult number for me to read, because I do not know what this number is. I recognize \$999,999. I can go one step further, \$999,999,999. I can keep going to \$999,999,999,999, and on and so. The reality is, whatever number this is, it is now legal for this amount of money to be donated to a political party, to a national political party. So if a person who had this kind of wealth wrote out a check to the Republican Party or the Democratic Party, it is completely legal to make this kind of donation and it not be disclosed where the money came from.

Well, many of us in this House, many of us in America, think that is the wrong way to finance campaigns, and on January 11, 1995, the President and the Speaker of the House, in a very famous garden shot, shook hands and committed themselves to campaign finance reform. Since that time, we have not seen much action.

The President is firmly committed to signing meaningful campaign finance reform, and as someone from Arkansas who was in the State Senate and worked with then Governor Clinton when he was in Arkansas, I know of his commitment to campaign finance reform and ethics reform. He had an experience when he was in Arkansas of calling a special session of the legislature in order to get ethics reform for lobbyists' disclosure, having that effort thwarted in the State legislature in the committee vote when that was the sole purpose of calling the session; and he took the issue to the States and initiated that to get signatures working in

conjunction with organizations like Common Cause and others, got the signatures, took it to the vote of the people, and in 1990, it passed. The President is committed to cleaning up the problems in our democracy.

If the President is committed to it, then where is the problem? I see the problem, Mr. Chairman, as being the leadership in this House; specifically, the Republican leadership that will not let us bring this type of legislation to the floor. Since we have convened in January, we have had approximately 85 bills filed, but we have had no hearings on any bill, we have had, obviously, no bills passed, and so we find ourselves as we are talking now about winding down this first year, this first session of this Congress, making no progress on campaign finance reform, and I think that is a mistake. I think it is wrong, and I think the American people want something different.

My own preference in all of these bills is the Hutchinson-Allen bill, this is the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] and the gentleman from Maine [Mr. ALLEN]. And it is the freshman, bipartisan bill, Mr. HUTCHINSON being a Republican, Mr. ALLEN a Democrat, that has seriously looked at the problems and has tried to do the doable, and what it specifically does is ban the soft money, to do away with the potential of these huge, huge checks, the kinds of several-hundred-thousand-dollar, even million-dollar checks that sometimes come into political parties.

No one likes raising money. I do not know of any politician that likes raising money. My own feeling is that raising money makes you weird. Raising money just does weird things to elected officials. But for parties to raise those huge donations makes our democracy weird. It distorts the system, it disillusion the citizens, and we have to do something better.

So, Mr. Speaker, let me finally say, I do not want to see a check someday come in made out to a political party for \$1 billion. I do not want to see checks come in to a political party for \$500 million. We need to step forward. The Republican leadership needs to let this body consider campaign finance reform legislation, needs to let us vote on it, needs to let us debate on it, needs to let us move ahead with what the American people want: clean elections and a much-improved system of electing public officials.

TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank the staff for bearing with me as I attempt to address two key issues that I think are extremely important to this country. I hope not to take the entire hour.

Mr. Speaker, my first issue has to do with a trip that I took this past weekend to South Africa. It was a very difficult weekend. I left Washington on Thursday and flew 22 hours to Durban, South Africa, and returned Monday to be able to be here for votes on Tuesday.

The reason I went to Africa, Mr. Speaker, and to Durban, was because the African Association of Physiological Sciences and the South African Physiological Society invited me to deliver the keynote speech at the conference representing those health care professionals throughout the African nations as they assembled for their annual conference, and in the case of the other organization, their biannual conference.

The purpose of the session was to convey what is happening in the technology area relative to this country and how it could assist Africa with the terrible problems they have with their medical care delivery. I was asked to give the keynote speech because of a major initiative that we are involved in in the Philadelphia area, including the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, to create the first smart region in America, and in fact, in the world.

Over the past 2 years we have worked on a project that is known as HUBS, which stands for hospitals, universities and businesses and schools, to link all of these institutions through an aggressive, large, fiberoptic network into one major supercomputing center, as well as 14 satellite sub-HUB centers throughout the four-State region, and in doing so to be able to provide the storage and capability of high-speed transportation of data so that our health care institutions, our schools, our colleges, can, in fact, provide better use of the Internet and information for our citizens.

In fact, one example in the health care area of what the benefit of this kind of an instrument will be is best evidenced by the example of what the University of Pennsylvania has been able to do just within the last 2 years in terms of our HUBS project. The University of Pennsylvania has been, in fact, the primary processor for the imaging data collected from an MRI unit by the Children's hospital in Philadelphia so that when a child would undergo brain surgery, the imaging data from the MRI unit would be processed by the computers at Penn, which are very sophisticated, high-speed computers. In spite of their speed, it would normally take the Penn computers 5 hours to process the imaging data so that the surgeon could have a look at that child's brain prior to surgery.

Partly because of the effort that we started and the fact that Penn's lab is now connected to the fat pipe supercomputing center in Illinois, Chicago, and in San Diego, we can now process that same data for a child's brain surgery procedure in 3 seconds. So we have taken, because of the speed and the capability, the processing of data that in

the past has taken 5 hours and given those surgeons the real-time capability of looking at that child's brain image in 3 seconds.

We want to give that same speed and capability of using data in the health care field to every medical institution in our region, but we want to do more than that, Mr. Speaker. In fact, we have two initiatives underway in the region, one of which is to market the health care services of the four-State region worldwide, and to market the Delaware Valley four-State health care network as the world's health care resource center. We want to establish not just this fast supercomputing capability within the four States, but we have already agreed with the Shanghai Government to establish a direct satellite linkage to Shanghai as they are in the process of now developing smart capability there. And also we want to establish that same capability for the African continent, and specifically to the African health care system.

Now, I am going to Africa, and I would ask unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker, to enter into the RECORD the letters of invitation that I received from the African medical leadership.

AFRICAN ASSOCIATION
OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES,
Lexington, KY, July 12, 1997.

Hon. Dr. CURT WELDON,
U.S. Congress,
Washington, DC.

The African Association of Physiological Sciences (AAPS) was founded in 1989 in Helsinki, Finland, by the African delegates to the XXX Congress of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS), the most important and prestigious international organization of this all important field in the medical science profession.

AAPS is a non-governmental, non-profit making organization that aims to unite the entire African scientific communities, especially those involved in active research into and/or teaching of human or animal physiology in Africa. The Association primary objective is to advance physiological sciences, bring it to cutting edge that has been left behind in global human scientific discoveries in the last 5 centuries. It is our earnest hope that through this, we will bring medical sciences practice in the African continent to the way it should be practiced in the 20th century and the 21st century!

AAPS held his first scientific congress in Nairobi, Kenya in 1992 with the participation of 800 scientists from 40 countries, nearly all from Africa.

Due to our active pursue of excellence, and our inclusive policy of welcoming all scientists of the world, especially those from the African continent, AAPS was admitted as a regional member by IUPS in 1993 and presently has over 2000 members from every country in Africa. We are very proud to say that this makes it the largest and probably most significant scientific association in Africa.

The second congress will be held in Durban, South Africa, September 21-24, 1997. It will be the honor of not only our large congress, but by extrapolation the entire scientific community of Africa if you, as the technological, educational and international relations champion in the United States Congress, could bestow us the honor of accepting our invitation to deliver the keynote address at this congress.